



ARC-OVER

T.A.R.C



W6BXN

www.w6bxn.org

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August 2024 Club Newsletter

The next general club meeting is Tuesday August 13, 2024, at the Turlock Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA 95380. A ham testing session is scheduled before this month's meeting. The meeting's start time is 7:00 PM and doors will open after the testing session.





From the desk of the ARC-Over editor:
Lucian KF6NPG

Welcome to the August edition of the ARC-OVER.

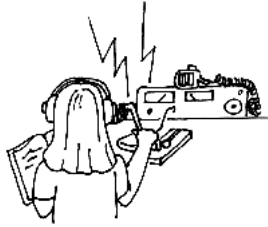
I hope everyone has enjoyed the cooler weather that we have had. Unfortunately, it is going to heat back up. Reminder that Pacificon (The ARRL Pacific Division Convention) is coming up October 18-19, 2024, in San Ramon. Look for information on the newsletter events page.

There was a very short meeting as everyone was ready to enjoy the club potluck. Lots of great food was brought in and everyone had a great time sampling all of the food and visiting with each other. Due to unforeseen circumstances Dinnie N6LTW was not available to show the photos of Field Day. I will try and reschedule this at a later date. At the August meeting there will be presentation on packet radio by Spencer KJ6ART.

It is expected to be a very active hurricane season this year. I have included an article about Hurricane Watch courtesy of the July 25, 2024, ARRL Letter. You may find this very informative and possibly have the chance to monitor some of the traffic when a hurricane makes landfall in the U.S.

If you have not already done so, please consider renewing your club membership. Dues pay for the club activities and most importantly paying the rent and maintenance of the club repeater system. Thanks to everyone who has renewed, joined, or donated to the club.

Ed K7ERD has been running the club net on Tuesday's and he is always looking for other club members to assist. Thanks to Fernando W6FRD as he has been running some of the nets to help. If you are interested in running a club net, please contact Ed at a club meeting or on the net to let him know.



PREZ SEZ:

Bambi KI6YQL

It's another hot July day in a long string of hot days. The heat is drying things out at a rapid rate and not just the vegetation around us. The heat takes a toll on humans, too. We need to stay hydrated as well as keeping our surroundings and animals protected, too. Stay safe, cool, and alert as fires can start quickly and spread rapidly. Happy summer!



Amateur Radio Operators, or “hams,” have a long history of serving their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, such as cell phone towers and fiber optic networks. Amateur radio functions completely independent of the internet and phone systems, and a ham radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Amateurs can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® ARES® (www.arrl.org/ares) consists of hams who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. They use their training, skills, and equipment to prepare for and provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. (Courtesy of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League)).

If you are interested in emergency communications and serving the community, please consider joining Merced ARES. They have a weekly radio net on Mondays

on the TARC repeater at 7:00 pm. **A big thanks to Dinnie N6TLW for running the voice nets.** They meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory, 3146 G St. Merced, CA. **(Meetings are cancelled for June, July, and August).** For more information, please contact the Merced ARES Emergency Coordinator, Richard W6ABJ at info@w6bxn.org .

General Meeting Minutes
Turlock Amateur Radio Club
07/09/2024, 7:00p

Salvation Army Facility, 893 Lander Ave, Turlock

Meeting called to order by President Bambi (K16YQL) around 7:00pm, with pledge of allegiance repeated by those in attendance. Meeting immediately adjourned for the annual potluck that followed in the meeting room.

Eric (K7RKU), Secretary





Ham Radio During Hurricane Season

by Sierra Harrop, W5DX

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® encourages amateur stations to prepare for what the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has predicted will be a [busy hurricane season](#). In addition to readying equipment to function during and after a storm's impact, local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®) nets are encouraged to participate in hurricane reporting and relief nets.



Stations do not need to be in a coastal zone to participate. Propagation often shifts well inland, meaning ham radio operators throughout the continent can serve in times of need. “Monitoring and relaying traffic is a way to help with the nets and get real time information to the NHC, where it can be shared with the National Weather Service, FEMA, and other emergency response organizations to aid in a more rapid response and recovery,” said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

Amateur radio plays a critical role in the warning and recovery process of hurricanes. From providing surface observations which give forecasters at the National Hurricane Center ground truth, to providing communications when infrastructure is damaged, ham radio is as vital as ever.

The Nets

There is a robust ecosystem of communications networks that all work in tandem to provide coverage anytime a named storm is within a few hundred miles of land. These separate, but partner, volunteer organizations serve much of the Western Hemisphere on many different bands and modes.



Much of the focus is to get information to and from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. [Hurricane specialists rely on having an amateur radio station at the center, WX4NHC](#). Julio Ripoll, WD4R, is the Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator for the station. “These surface reports can be weather data or eyewitness reports (or heard on

local VHF/UHF) and are very valuable to the hurricane specialists at NHC, as they fill in gaps of data that they may not have from other means, such as government weather stations, satellites, Hurricane Hunter aircraft, etc.,” explained Ripoll.

The NHC would like more hams to provide information if they are in an affected area. There are many ways to do it. The simplest is over high frequency (HF) amateur radio bands. There, you’ll find a dedicated team running the [Hurricane Watch Net](#). The net, which uses 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, is usually active any time a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass, or at the request of NHC.

“We are strategically dispersed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and the northern coast of South America, so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas,” said Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Hurricane Watch Net Manager. The net has members who speak many of the languages in the hurricane zones, including English and Spanish.

Information to and From

The HWN is a two-way street of information, while the reports coming in are critical to forecasters – information from the NHC is even more important to people in the path of the storm. Weather information is relayed in real time from the NHC throughout the network, as well.

In addition to the weather information and reporting, the HWN assists the Salvation Army’s SATERN Net with outgoing health and welfare traffic from the affected areas – messages sent via ham radio from those being impacted by the storm.

WX4NHC also receives reports via Winlink email over amateur radio via the address wx4nhc@winlink.org. The email subject line must start with //WL2K. There is a webform on the WX4NHC web site to provide information as well.

Voice over Internet Protocol and Digital Voice Modes

For those without HF capabilities, or who may have their antennas unavailable during the storms, the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) provides a parallel capability using modern digital technologies. VoIP Hurricane Net manager Rob Macedo, KD1CY, says the scope of this net gives a big picture look at what’s happening. “Our net gathers reports from amateur radio nets and amateur radio operators at the local, state and regional level that connect directly or liaison to our net on *WX_TALK* Echolink conference node:

7203/IRLP 9219 reflector. The connections to our net can include other VoIP modes such as Fusion, All-Star, Hamshack Hotline, certain types of DMR among other VoIP modes via the KC5FM, AUXCOMM and Sunflower systems,” he said. The VoIP Hurricane Net also provides observations from social media monitoring.

More Participation Needed

With the robust systems in place to handle traffic, organizers encourage radio amateurs in the path of these storms to participate in the nets. “We encourage all who are in the path of a landfalling hurricane to join us and share your local observed weather information. No matter how insignificant you may feel your data may be, it is very important to the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center,” said Graves.

“Sometimes, ham radio reports are the only reports received from the islands or sparsely populated areas,” said Ripoll. Michael Brennan, Director of the National Hurricane Center, added, “The NHC ham radio network has played a crucial role for more than 40 years in providing real-time information during tropical storms and hurricanes. The information provided by ham radio is incredibly helpful to NHC's hurricane specialists as it provides on-the-ground data during an event and offers a valuable option to maintain communications in situations where traditional communication methods can fail or become unavailable.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Going Events

[Electronics Flea Market](#) at West Valley College in Saratoga. Once a month on the second **Sunday**.

The club will sponsor 5 amateur radio license test sessions in 2024.

February 13, 2024, April 9, 2024, June 11, 2024 (CANCELLED), August 13, 2024, and October 8, 2024.

August

Tuesday 13th Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. There will be a license testing session before the meeting starting at 6:00 pm. A presentation on packet by Spencer KJ6ART follows the meeting.

Wednesday 21st Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA. (CANCELLED)

September

Tuesday 10th. Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. There will be a presentation on ARES by Richard W6ABJ.

Wednesday 18th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

October

Tuesday 8th. Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. There will be a presentation on Winlink by Lucian KF6NPG.

Wednesday 16th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.



PACIFICONSM 2024 October 18-20

<https://www.pacificon.org>

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon, CA 94583

TARC System Nets

- TARC Tuesday Night Net - Tuesdays 7 PM, except for the second Tuesday
- Bacon and Eggs Net - Weekdays 7 AM
- Merced ARES Net - Mondays 7 PM
- San Joaquin Section ARES Net - Sundays 7:30 PM

2024 Dues

Just a reminder, dues are now payable for 2024. Dues help with upkeep on the TARC repeater system and club events. Please include a [membership application](#) to help keep our information up to date. Thanks!

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Family Membership: \$35

Are you receiving TARC emails? If not [head over to W6BXN.org](https://w6bxn.org) and subscribe.

2024 Club Officers

To protect TARC members' personal information, we will no longer post the list of members on the club website. For all club inquiries, including membership status, please send an email to info@w6bxn.org.

President Bambi KI6YQL

Vice President/ARC-OVER Editor Lucian KF6NPG

Secretary Eric K7RKU

Treasurer Mike KG6VFL

Sergeant at Arms Jerry KN6GJK

Member at Large/ Membership John N6JCS

Member at Large Lynn KM6DKF

Club Trustee Spencer KJ6ART

We are always looking for articles or items of interest for the ARC-OVER. If you have something for the newsletter, please send to info@w6bxn.org.

